

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15886 110502Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15  
/077 W

-----076383 110525Z /13

R 110452Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1370

UNCLAS MANILA 15886

EO 11652:NA  
TAGS: SHUM, RP  
SUBJECT: MARCOS GIVES BIRTHDAY PARDONS TO SIX LOPEZ/OSMENA  
- PLOTTERS, 438 OTHERS

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVE OF HIS BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT MARCOS GRANTED "CONDITIONAL PARDONS" TO SIX PERSONS (INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN) SERVING 6-YEAR MILITARY SENTENCES AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO PARTICIPATION IN THE LOPEZ/OSMENA PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE HIM. MARCOS ALSO PARDONED OR COMMUTED SENTENCES OF 438 OTHERS, ALL APPARENTLY SERVING SENTENCES IN CIVILIAN JAILS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF HIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, PRESIDENT MARCOS GRANTED PARDONS TO 444 PRISONERS SEPTEMBER 10. MOST PROMINENT WERE SIX PERSONS (INCLUDING ONE U.S. CITIZEN) WHO HAD PLEADED GUILTY IN FEBRUARY 1977 TO PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE HIM: AUGUSTUS MCCORMICK LEHMAN, JR. (AMCIT), EDUARDO FIGUERAS, ANTONIO AREVALO, ALEXANDER AREVALO, MANUEL CRISOLOGO, AND FAUSTINO DIZON. THEY WERE AMONG 18 CODEFENDANTS, INCLUDING SERGIO OSMENA III AND EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., CHARGED WITH SEVERAL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS IN 1972. PRESS REPORTS SAY THEY WERE GIVEN "CONDITIONAL PARDONS." THEY HAD BEEN SENTENCED BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL TO SIX YEARS HARD LABOR AND 10,000 PESO FINES. OSMENA  
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AND LOPEZ ESCAPED FROM CUSTODY IN OCTOBER 1977 AND ARE IN THE U.S. PRESS REPORTS IGNORE FACT THAT EIGHT OTHER ACCUSED IN THIS CASE (NEPOMUCENO ET AL. -- MANILA 10021, 10604), WHO HAD NOT PLEADED GUILTY, WERE RELEASED IN JUNE.

3. SIX OTHER PARDONED PRISONERS WERE NAMED IN PRESS

RELEASES: ARMANDO AQUINO, PELAYO IBALLO, DOMINADOR  
NISTEROS, LIBERIO GARCIA, RUDY SORIANO AND GREGORIO  
PORFIRIO BELGICA. OF THE 432 OTHER (UNNAMED) PRISONERS  
GRANTED PARDONS OR COMMUTED SENTENCES, FOUR RECEIVED  
FULL PARDONS, 335 RECEIVED CONDITIONAL PARDONS, AND 93  
WERE GIVEN SHORTER SENTENCES. ALL OF THESE ARE APPARENTLY  
COMMON CRIMINALS HELD IN CIVILIAN JAILS. A FEW DAYS AGO  
PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE PARDON AND PAROLE BOARD  
HAD RECOMMENDED 500 CONVICTS FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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